

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01033 112008Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 EUR-12 CA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 EB-08 JUSE-00 SEC-01 DODE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /063 W
-----073871 112013Z /21

O 111558Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 955
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1033

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS, PN, BF, US
SUBJ: HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY CONFIRMS "ROBERT VESCO IS IN
THE BAHAMAS"

REFS: (A) NASSAU 992, NOTAL (B) NASSAU 1013, NOTAL (C) STATE
113196

1. NASSAU GUARDIAN TODAY REPORTS "ROBERT L. VESCO IS CURRENTLY
IN THE BAHAMAS." GUARDIAN STATES THIS FACT WAS CONFIRMED
WEDNESDAY NIGHT BY A SPOKESMAN FOR MR. VESCO. IN A TELEPHONE
CONVERSATION THE SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY TOLD THE GUARDIAN THAT
"MR. VESCO WAS PROCESSED BY THE BAHAMAS IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS
IN A ROUTINE MANNER." GUARDIAN ALSO REPORTS ARTHUR BARNETT,
P.S., MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS, HAS REVERSED HIS MINISTRY'S
POSITION (REF A). BARNETT NOW STATES THAT "SUBSEQUENT CHECKS
REVEALED THAT VESCO CAME IN ON APRIL 30 AT INAGUA. HE CAME
IN AS A VISITOR."

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01033 112008Z

2. JOHN GARNER, CHIEF, ECONOMIC/POLITICAL SECTION, IN TELE-
PHONE CONVERSATION WITH BARNETT AT 0930 TODAY CONFIRMED ACCURACY
OF GUARDIAN STORY. BARNETT SAID "YES, MR. VESCO IS IN THE
BAHAMAS." BARNETT UPON FURTHER QUESTIONING SAID THAT VESCO
IS IN THE BAHAMAS AS AN "AMERICAN VISITOR AND AS SUCH MAY
REMAIN IN THE BAHAMAS FOR UP TO EIGHT MONTHS." HE ADDED THAT
"AS ANY AMERICAN VISITOR HE MAY THEN DEPART THE BAHAMAS AND

RE-ENTER FOR AN ADDITIONAL EIGHT MONTHS ON VISITOR STATUS."
BARNETT ADDED THAT "MRS. VESCO AND DAUGHTER ARE ALSO IN THE
BAHAMAS HAVING ARRIVED SUNDAY NIGHT ON A COMMERCIAL FLIGHT
AFTER HAVING TEMPORARILY VISITED IN NEW JERSEY FOR SEVERAL
DAYS." BARNETT WAS UNABLE TO SPECIFY THE EXACT WHEREABOUTS
OF THE VESCO FAMILY.

3. AT 10:00 HOURS GARNER REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED APPOINT-
MENT WITH ORIS RUSSELL, P.S., MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
TO OUTLINE U.S. POSITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF C, PARA 3.
RUSSELL SAID HE HAD NOT PERSONALLY CONFIRMED VESCO'S PRESENCE
IN THE BAHAMAS BUT ACCEPTED MR. BARNETT'S CONFIRMATION AS
BEING ACCURATE. AFTER REVIEWING THE FIVE POINTS (REF C)
RUSSELL ASKED IF USG WAS PLANNING TO REQUEST VESCO'S EXTRA-
DITION. GARNER REPLIED THAT AT THE MOMENT THE USG WAS TAKING
ALL STEPS SHORT OF EXTRADITION TO ENCOURAGE VESCO'S RETURN
TO THE U.S. AND ADDED THAT "IF THE BAHAMAS WERE TO PERMIT VESCO
TO REMAIN HERE, COULD THIS BE INTERPRETED THAT THE BAHAMAS
INTENDED TO GIVE VESCO SAFE HAVEN STATUS?" RUSSELL SAID THAT
THE US NEWS MEDIA MADE CHARGES TO THAT EFFECT ABOUT THE
BAHAMAS IN THE VESCO AFFAIR APPROXIMATELY FOUR TO FIVE YEARS
AGO. RUSSELL SAID THAT AT THAT TIME USG WAS MAKING ALL SORTS
OF CHARGES AGAINST VESCO WHICH IT APPARENTLY COULDN'T BACK UP.
RUSSELL SAID THE BAHAMAS CLEARED ITSELF OF THESE CHARGES ONLY
AFTER MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PAUL ADDERLEY, IN NEW YORK
AT UN MEETING, AND AFTER LISTENING TO THESE CHARGES FOR THREE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01033 112008Z

MONTHS, CALLED A MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE AND CHARGED THAT "IF
INDEED THE US HAD A LEGAL CASE AGAINST VESCO, IT SHOULD
FOLLOW PROCEDURES TO REQUEST HIS EXTRADITION FROM THE BAHAMAS."
(BAHAMAS HAS SUCCEEDED UK EXTRADITION - T.S. 849). RUSSELL
SAID HE WOULD REVIEW GARNER'S CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER ADD-
ERLEY THIS AFTERNOON (ADDERLEY WAS AWAY FROM HIS OFFICE) AND
RECONFIRM IF MINISTER'S POSITION REMAINS THE SAME - I.E.
IF USG HAS LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST VESCO, AND EVIDENCE TO
BACK THEM UP, IT SHOULD REQUEST EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST
HIM FOLLOWING PROPER CHANNELS. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT
OF ADDITIONAL REMARKS OF RUSSELL AND/OR ADDERLEY (IF CHANGED
OR FURTHER CLARIFIED) THIS AFTERNOON.

4. EMBASSY, IN RESPONDING TO NEWS MEDIA REQUESTS ABOUT VESCO,
INTENDS TO CONFIRM ACCURACY OF BARNETT'S COMMENTS WHICH APPEARED
IN TODAY'S GUARDIAN, AND REFER MATTERS ON POSSIBLE USG LEGAL
AND OTHER ACTIONS AGAINST VESCO TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMENTS
IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE.
SCHWARTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, FUGITIVES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU01033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780200-1194
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780569/aaaacguf.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a9188ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NASSAU 992, 78 NASSAU 1013, 78 STATE 1978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2721014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY CONFIRMS \"ROBERT VESCO IS IN THE BAHAMAS\"
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CS, PN, BF, US, (VESCO, ROBERT L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a9188ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014